tourists. Governments of Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chandigarh are in the process of setting up of Tourist Police Force. Some of the States/UTs e.g. Mizoram, Daman & Diu, Assam, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep have not felt the necessity of setting up a separate Tourist Police Force and have instructed the regular police force to look into safety and security of the foreign tourists.

Funds allocated for Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

82. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Tourism Master Plan of Andhra Pradesh prepared by World Tourism Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Central assistance provided so far and proposed to be provided to the State for the implementation of the Master Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has obtained the services of World Tourism Organisation for preparing Perspective Tourism Plan for the State which includes an action plan for development of tourism regions and circuits, infrastructure development, education and training programmes, marketing programmes, etc.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 9.64 crores for 41 projects as Central financial assistance during the years 1998-99 to 2001-02 for the development of tourism in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Nagarjuna Sagar has been identified for destination development and Pochumpalli for Rural Tourism development.

Comprehensive plan for development of Lakshadweep Island

83. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan for promotion and development of tourism sector in the different parts of the country including Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if, so the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Department of Tourism Government of India has prepared draft 20 years perspective plans for different States and Union Territories by engaging professional consultants. In case of Lakshadweep Islands the final plan has been prepared in consultation with State Government. Government of Andhra Pradesh has got a plan prepared on its own. Government of West Bengal availed of an assistance of Rs. 10.00 lakhs from the Department of Tourism for preparation of such a plan.

Creation of National Park around the Taj Mahal

84. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of fresh projects have been drawn up to attract more tourists to the Taj Mahal by beautifying the heritage corridor and creating a National Park around this world famous monument; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals including the financial contribution offered by the sponsors, if any?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Culture on behalf of the National Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Hotels Company Limited for providing financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 187.00 lakhs for taking up the conservation, beautification and environmental development of the Taj Mahal and its surroundings.

(b) The sub-projects include:

(1) Conservation and preservation of eastern wall;